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## Progress of the Pacific.

### Russian View of English-American Policy

The most interesting and instructive article, of the current month, on the Eastern question, is entitled "*Ex Oriente Lux*," a plea for Russo-American understand-

ing, by Vladimir Holmstrom, (a Russian), in the *North American Review*. It is needless to say that we do not agree with the views taken by the learned writer except in his special plea for the integrity of China. But whatever opinion may be held concerning Russia it is always profitable to know both sides of a question and most ably and exhaustively has Mr. Holmstrom put before the reading public the aims and desires of Russia, and the complexion of Russian thought concerning England's far Eastern policy. Since Oukhtonisky, editor of the *St. Petersburg Viedmosti* in his preface to Mr. Holmstrom's article gives, in a paragraph, an idea of the forces behind Russian civilization, as follows:

"We must face and seriously study the following questions: What were the forces that called us into being, what was the process of the growth of our country, what blood is it that flows in our veins, and, finally, what are the glorious legacies of our past bequeathed to us by days of glory? The dominant factor in the history of Russia's past is the influence of Asia. She crushed us, but she has also regenerated us. In common with her we

have created the idea of autocracy (which has nothing in common with the Caesarism of the West); it is an idea that pervades all Asia and is the breath of life to her."

Mr. Holmstrom describes Russian Ideals thus: The unity of Russia is personified in the Tsar and can find no other expression, such as Parliament or Congress, because such institutions would mean political slavery not only for the great mass of races of an inferior degree of civilization, but for the bulk of the Russian peasantry as well. The Tsar is the expression of the national idea of Russia, and therefore the enemy of the Tsar

is the enemy of the people. The power of the Tsar no more limits freedom than do Congress or Parliament during the time that their members are actually in office. Again,—the ultimate object of our empire is to bring together in a harmonious whole all the nations of the earth, of which Russia includes in herself various representatives. "*Russia is a world, a universe!*"

Accustomed as we are to look upon Russia as a European power professing European civilization, the influence of Asia upon Russian civilization is too frequently under-estimated. It is this blending of two distinct civilizations, without our realizing it, that makes Russia so incomprehensible and her diplomacy so formidable. The statement, that the ultimate object of Russia is the

claims that Russia's motives are pure and cannot see what business England has got to meddle with her. He claims for Russia the right to dominate Asia on the same principle that the United States insists upon paramount influence in the Western Hemisphere. This explains the motive farther aggressive, almost irresistible movement of Russia upon China. It is claimed that the sole desire of Russia is the integrity of China, and that she was forced to enter China to prevent the partitioning of the Empire between England, Germany and other European powers. England is arraigned for insincerity in her "open door" policy and the United States is urged to join with Russia against English propensity for land grabbing. In this connection the writer says:

"Viewed in the light of what has just been said, the position of America, which has suddenly come to the front in the politics of the world, presents itself to the Russian mind in the following aspect: America is a universe, wherein the influence of the people of the United States predominates; it is a universe in the sense that it brings into close contact and harmony elements of various origin, creed and disposition, assimilating them one to another and welding them into an indissoluble whole. Whatever political vicissitudes may await the Americans in the future, whatever temporary interests may claim attention in different parts of the world, they will always be of a transitory character, because of the one absorbing, all-embracing and determining interest of Americans centres in their own continent. The success which may attend the policy of the



harmony of all nations of the earth, (supposedly under Russian domination) is just where the shoe pinches. It is the dream of every patriotic American that autocracy will some day be stamped out of existence—that individual sovereignty will become the ideal of all peoples; the stimulant that shall quicken the intellect of the benighted races; the great factor in the gradual evolution of the world toward human perfection. The learned writer, being a Russian, cannot appreciate that it is the fear of liberty, loving nations, that Russian domination might become possible, which is causing the opposition to Russian aggression. He

United States elsewhere will always depend on its success in the New World. This being admitted, it follows that in order to fulfill their destiny the United States must have their hands free on their own continent. But it is here that England blocks the way at all points and in every way. \* \* \* It follows that the future of the different countries lying within the sphere of influence of United States depends on their emancipation from the English."

The author of "*Ex Oriente Lux*" seems to have forgotten that President Monroe in his famous proclamation emancipated the United